

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 EB-11 COME-00 ACDA-19 MC-02

CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 NSC-07 SS-20 /130 R

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APPROVED BY EUR/WE:RDVINE

OSD/DSAA: M.MACDONALD

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R 202249Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY OSLO

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 105394

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, NATO, BE, NL

SUBJECT: F-104 REPLACEMENT AIRCRAFT

REF: STATE 101858

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER TO SECRETARY SCHLESINGER
FROM NORWEGIAN DEFENSE MINISTER, DATED MAY 15:

2. "THE MINISTERS OF DEFENSE BELGIUM, DENMARK, THE NETHER-
LANDS AND NORWAY HAVE DECIDED ON 2ND MAY 1974 TO STUDY
JOINTLY THE POSSIBILITIES FOR A COMMON REPLACEMENT PROGRAM
OF OBSOLESCE F-104S AND OTHER AIRCRAFT, AND BY THE END OF
SUMMER 1974 IF POSSIBLE TO COME TO A COMMON POSITION.

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3. "THE FOUR COUNTRIES ARE IN AGREEMENT THAT AMONG OTHER CANDIDATES THE 'AIR COMBAT FIGHTER' DERIVATIVES OF THE 'LIGHT WEIGHT FIGHTER' TYPES (NORTHROP AND GENERAL DYNAMICS), MIGHT BE ELIGIBLE FOR SELECTION.

4. "IN ASSESSING THE VARIOUS CANDIDATE AIRCRAFT, THE DEGREE OF PREPAREDNESS OF YOUR GOVERNMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN AND TO SUPPORT A POSSIBLE JOINT PROGRAM IS A FACTOR OF THE HIGHEST IMPORTANCE. THEREFORE, IT WOULD BE HIGHLY APPRECIATED BY ME AND MY THREE COLLEAGUES, WHO DELEGATED ME TO ADDRESS YOU, IF YOU COULD AGREE TO A VISIT TO USA BY A GROUP OF HIGH RANKING OFFICIALS OF THE FOUR COUNTRIES TO DISCUSS IN

APPROPRIATE DEPTH MATTERS RELEVANT TO THE VARIOUS PROGRAM PROPOSALS WITH DELEGATES OF US GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES CONCERNED.

5. "IN VIEW OF THE TIME AVAILABLE I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THE FREEDOM TO SUGGEST THAT SUCH DISCUSSIONS BE INITIATED IN THE WEEK COMMENCING ON THE 24TH OF JUNE 1974. IT IS INTENDED DURING THE SAME TIME TO HAVE PARALLEL DISCUSSIONS ON SPECIALISTS LEVEL WITH THE PRIME CONTRACTORS CONCERNED, AIMING AT COMPLETING BOTH THE DISCUSSIONS WITH GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND THE INDUSTRY WITHIN TWO TO THREE WEEKS.

6. "PENDING YOUR APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED VISIT, THE SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED WILL BE FORWARDED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BY A SEPARATE LETTER." RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY AIRCRAFT, FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, MILITARY PROCUREMENT, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE105394
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EJBELGEL:VE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740125-0979
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740532/aaaabcmp.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 101858
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 APR 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <12 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: F-104 REPLACEMENT AIRCRAFT
TAGS: MASS, BE, NL, NATO, (SCHLESINGER)
To: NATO MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005